

The background features a collage of various postage stamps and postmarks. Visible elements include a circular postmark from 'CHIKAWA', a rectangular postmark from 'MADRID', and a circular postmark from 'COSTA RICA'. Other stamps show partial text like 'PAR AVION', 'METER', 'POSTAGE', and '100.00'.

# Maximizing Easter

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Ronnie Norman

# *Acts 10:39-43*

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*39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.*

# *Acts 10:39-43*

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*<sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people*

# *Acts 10:39-43*

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*and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

# Josephus, *The Antiquities*, 18.63-64.



"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man...he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks..."

# Josephus, *The Antiquities*, 18.63-64.



When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him...

# Josephus, *The Antiquities*, 18.63-64.



And the tribe of Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”

(30 years after the crucifixion)

# Pliny the Younger, *Christians in Bithynia*

"Meanwhile, this is the course that I have adopted in the case of those brought before me as Christians. I ask them if they are Christians. If they admit it I repeat the question a second and third time, threatening capital



# Pliny the Younger, *Christians in Bithynia*

punishment; if they persist I sentence them to death.”

(70 years after the crucifixion)

# Tacitus, *Annales*, xv. 44.

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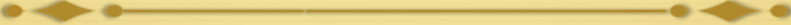
"...those who are commonly called Christians. Christus, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. Checked for the moment, this pernicious superstition

# Tacitus, *Annales*, xv. 44.

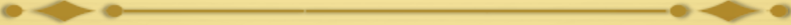


again broke out, not only in Judaea, the source of the evil, but even in Rome..."

(80 years after the crucifixion)



1. The resurrection past is part of  
God's great today!



1. The resurrection past is part of  
God's great today!

2. The resurrection invites you and  
me to engage fully here and now.

# *1 Corinthians 15:14*



*And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

# *1 Corinthians 15:58*



*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,  
stand firm. Let nothing move you.  
Always give yourselves fully to the work  
of the Lord, because you know that your  
labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

# *Revelation 5*



*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”*



# *Revelation 5*



*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*